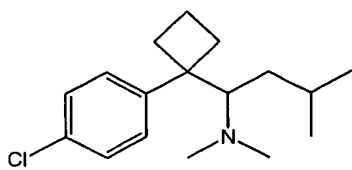


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing obesity, comprising novel crystalline sibutramine methanesulfonate hemihydrate of formula (I). The crystalline sibutramine methanesulfonate hemihydrate according to the present invention has a much higher solubility in water, and enhanced stability under a high humidity/temperature condition, as compared with sibutramine hydrochloride monohydrate.



(I)